

## ABSTRACT

Metadata corresponding to content data respectively  
5 stored in plural communication terminals can be retrieved  
easily.

When any of the following three cases occurs:

- (a) any of communication terminal A to E is connected to  
another communication terminal,
- 10 (b) an addition, a deletion, or a replacement of content data  
**30** stored in a content data storage **3** is produced, and
- (c) a communication terminal has received metadata **20** from  
another communication terminal connected to the  
communication terminal,
- 15 a metadata stored **20** in the metadata storage **2** gets updated and  
the updated metadata **20**, if the communication terminal is  
connected to another upper level communication terminal, gets  
transmitted to the upper level communication terminal.